

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01

/114 W

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P R 232131Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9521

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, LE

SUBJ: SHOOTING OF CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

1. SUMMARY. INCIDENT VIEWED IN CHILE AS KIDNAP ATTEMPT IN WHICH CANALES RESISTED AND WAS SHOT AS CONSEQUENCE. BLAME LAID ON INTERNATIONAL EXTREMISM, TO WHICH CHILEANS WHO FLED COUNTRY AFTER COUP LAST SEPTEMBER TIED. PINOCHET, IN CONDEMNING PERPETRATORS AS COWARDS, AFFIRMS GOC WILL NOT RPT NOT NEGOTIATE OR MAKE A DEAL IN SUCH SITUATIONS. ALTHOUGH SOME FEAR EVIDENT LOCALLY THAT INCIDENT MAY MARK BEGINNING OF CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILEANS DIPLOMATS ABROAD, CANALES MAY WELL HAVE CONSTITUTED A SPECIAL TARGET. END SUMMARY

2. ATTEMPT ON RETIRED ARMY GENERAL ALFREDO CANALES, AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, JULY 21 IS UNSURPRISINGLY SUBJECT OF WIDESPREAD MEDIA COVERAGE, EDITORIAL COMMENT AND PRIVATE CONJECTURE IN SANTIAGO. VIEW WIDELY HELD THAT INCIDENT WAS KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT RESISTED BY VICTIM. THIS OPINION VOICED IN STATEMENT TO PRESS ISSUED EVENING JULY 22 BY FOREIGN MINISTER (VICE ADMIRAL) PATRICIO CARVAJAL, WHO CITED AS EVIDENCE ROPE ABANDONED AT SITE BY ATTACKERS. STATEMENT DECLARES THAT CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA AND JORDAN, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL MANUEL
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MONTT, HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GO TO BEIRUT WHERE MISSION BEING

STRENGTHENED BY PERSONNEL SENT FROM SANTIAGO, THAT ALL CHILEAN MISSIONS HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING REINFORCED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AND APPROPRIATE PROTECTION REQUESTS TO HOST GOVT AUTHORITIES, THAT FRIENDLY GOVTS MUST THWART CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILE, AND THAT LEADERS OF FORMER POPULAR UNITY (UP) REGIME AND "ALL THOSE CHILEAN TRAITORS WHO WITH THE IMPUNITY AFFORDED BY THEIR REFUGE ABROAD CONTINUE TO SLOW LIES AND HATRED AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY" CANNOT ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS CRIMINAL ACT.

3. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS RELEASED JULY 22, CHIEF OF STATE (ARMY GENERAL) AUGUSTO PINOCHET CONDEMNED INCIDENT AS A "COWARDLY AGGRESSION", REFERRING TO IT AS AN ATTEMPT KIDNAPPING, AND COMMENTING "THIS IS THE STYLE OF THOSE WHO HIDE UNDER BEDS (COMMENT: IN AFTERMATH OF COUP COMMUNIST PARTY SEC GEN LUIS CORVALAN WAS APPREHENDED HIDING UNDER A BED) AND THOSE WHO ABANDONED THEIR SUPPORTERS TO SEEK ASYLUM OR FLEE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF LUXURY AND EASE IN WHICH THEY HAD ALWAYS LIVED." WITH REGARD TO KIDNAPPINGS, PINOCHET STATED "THIS GOVT NEITHER NEGOTIATES NOR BARGAINS, AND THIS IS A NORM IT WILL MAINTAIN UNALTERABLY IN THE FACE OF EVENTS OF THIS NATURE, RESERVING TO ITSELF THE FREEDOM TO ACT WITHOUT HESITATION AND IN THE MOST DRASTIC FORM." (COMMENT: THIS MAY BE HINT OF POSSIBILITY THAT UP LEADERS DETAINED IN CHILE COULD SERVE AS HOSTAGES.) STATEMENT INDICATED ALL MEMBERS OF GOVERNING JUNTA SIMILARLY PREOCCUPIED.

4. JUNTA PRESS SPOKESMAN FEDERICO WILLOUGHBY IN COMMENTING JULY 22 SAID "EXTREMISM IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MOVED BY A SINGLE THREAD ON DIFFERENT FRONTS" AND TIED ATTEMPT TO ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN INSIDE CHILE PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER COUP. MARXISM LED TO THESE DESPERATE ACTS BY DEFEAT IT SUFFERED IN CHILE AND REALIZATION

THESE MOVEMENTS FIND NO SYMPATHY AMONG CHILEAN PEOPLE, STATEMENT AFFIRMS.

5. PRESS REPORTS CANALES CHILDREN, ARMY LT ALFREDO AND LUCIA ACCOMPANIED BY HER HUSBAND ARMY CAPT RENAN BALLAS, DEPARTED FOR BEIRUT JULY 22. STORIES, CITING UNIDENTIFIED GOVT SOURCES, HAVE IT THAT AMERICAN AND ECUADORIAN AMBASSADORS LIVING IN SAME BUILDING GAVE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO CANALES.
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6. COMMENT: CANALES KNOWN PRIMARILY AS AN UNCOMPROMISING OPPONENT OF ALLENDE GOVT. AND AT LEAST A SYMPATHIZER OF EXTREME RIGHT-WING POLITICAL IDEAS. HE WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1939 AND HAD A ROUTINE MILITARY CAREER. BY SEPT. 1972 HE HAD RISEN TO RANK OF BRIG. GEN. AND WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY DIR. OF ARMY INSTRUCTION AND COMMANDER OF ARMY WAR ACADEMY. IT WAS DURING THIS PERIOD HE ACQUIRED HIS NICKNAME "EL MACHO" (THE HE-MAN). THE ALLENDE GOVT. UNCOVERED

MILITARY COUP PLOTTING CENTERING AROUND CANALES, AND IN MID-SEPT 1972 HE WAS SUMMARILY RETIRED. A FEW MONTHS LATER, CANALES ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF A "NATIONALIST UNIFYING COUNCIL" (JUNTA UNIFICADORA NACIONAL-JUN) IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNITE RIGHT-WING "NATIONALISTIC" POLITICAL GROUPS UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP.

7. ALWAYS OUTSPOKEN, CANALES REPEATEDLY AND PUBLICLY CALLED FOR MILITARY OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE. HOWEVER HIS REAL ROLE IN SEPT. 11 COUP WAS PROBABLY MARGINAL. NEVERTHELESS, SINCE COUP, CANALES' NAME HAS APPEARED PROMINENTLY ON RADIO MOSCOW LIST OF "WAR CRIMINALS WHOSE CRIMES WILL BE PUNISHED." HE IS ONLY CHILEAN DIPLOMAT, EITHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, TO BE SINGLED OUT IN THIS MANNER BY RADIO MOSCOW, EXCEPT FOR FORMER FON MIN HUERTA WHO IS NOW AMB-DESIGNATE TO U.N. CONSEQUENTLY, WE CONCLUDE THAT CANALES CASE IS QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF OTHER CHILEAN AMBASSADORS ABROAD AND THAT GOC FEAR FOR SAFETY OF ITS OTHER DIPLOMATS MAY BE SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED.

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